

Foreshadowing and Suspense

Directions: Read each story excerpt and answer the questions that follow it.

My family moved to Oak Hill last fall, right after the houses were built. Compared with our old neighborhood, it's really nice. "Aren't you afraid you'll go home to the wrong house some time?" my Uncle Manny joked when he first saw our new house. He was just jealous. It's true that the houses in Oak Hill look pretty much the same, especially in the dark, but why would that be a problem? If anything, I liked it. It seemed to put all the neighbors on equal footing, and I liked seeing how different kids decorated the same rooms.

One night last August, Jason's father drove us home from scout camp. I had slept most of the way, and it was after 1:00 A.M. when he finally dropped me off. "Thanks," I mumbled, climbing out of the car. I was still half asleep.

1. Underline the sentence(s) above that most likely foreshadow(s) a future event.
2. Based on this foreshadowing, what do you predict will happen?

When I got home from school, I paddled out to the island to fish for bass. I should have left a note, but I figured I'd be home before Mom anyway. The fishing was better than the weather; it was cold for October, so I headed home. Going against the wind, I had to paddle hard. That's when it happened: With a loud crack, my paddle snapped in half. Helpless, I watched the paddle blade float away.

"Help!" I shouted, but the surrounding cottages were deserted. No one heard me, especially when the wind got stronger and blew my canoe down the lake. Too bad I hadn't brought a life preserver. The sun went down, and my shivering got worse. I looked around at the dark water and suddenly felt I had a bit too much in common with the bass I had just caught.

3. What details in the passage add suspense to the story?
4. What is the main question you have about the outcome of this story?